Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-32 (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein opening said seal of said supplier of the supply element comprises opening a seal comprising a chemically resistant substance.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein opening said seal of said supplier of the supply element comprises opening a seal comprising a wax.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, further in combination with sealing at least one end of the supplier of the supply element with a membrane that is flush with a side surface of the supply element.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein sealing at least one end of the supplier of the supply element with a membrane comprises sealing with a membrane comprising a chemically resistant material.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein sealing at least one end of the supplier of the supply element with a membrane comprises sealing with a membrane comprising one of a metal or a gas-permeable polymer.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, further in combination with sealing an analyte as the substance in the supplier of the supply element.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, further in combination with sealing a reagent as the substance in the supplier of the supply element.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the supply element includes a plurality of the sealed substance sources, one of the plurality of sealed sources being a

reagent source, another of the plurality of the sealed sources being an analyte source, the method further comprising supplying the reagent and analyte to the microfluid structure by breaking the seals of the reagent and analyte sources.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising coupling a potential supplier disposed within the supply element to a corresponding potential supplier of the microchip and transferring a potential from the potential supplier of the supply element to the potential supplier of the microchip.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising releasably attaching the supply element to ~~supply equipment~~ a holder for the supply element.

Claim 43 (canceled).

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising identifying the supply element to a second corresponding coding arrangement of supply equipment with a first coding arrangement.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, further comprising connecting a module carrying said supply element with a first assembly and releasably connecting said module to a second assembly.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the seal is opened by piercing said seal of said supply element and then transferring said substance to be transferred from said substance source of the supply element to the substance supplier of the microchip.

Claims 47 – 55 (canceled).

56. (currently amended) ~~The supply element of claim 1~~ A supply element for a laboratory microchip with a microfluid structure, the supply element comprising:

at least one substance-containing supplier including a substance, said at least one substance supplier having a substance seal for maintaining the substance therein in the particular

supplier, the substance supplier and seal therefor having a size, position, material and shape for causing the seal thereof to be opened to the microchip in response to the supply element and the microchip being joined together and for enabling said substance to be transferred from said at least one substance supplier to a substance supplier disposed within the microchip, the substance supplier in the supply element being different from the substance supplier in the microchip, the supply element being in combination with a microchip having a substance supplier, the microchip substance supplier being adapted to be connected in flow relation with the substance supplier of the supply element in response to the seal being opened.

57. (previously presented) A method of operating a supply element for a laboratory microchip with a substance source, a microfluid structure connected to the microchip substance source, the method being practiced with a supply element including a sealed substance source, the method comprising:

opening a seal in said substance source of the supply element in response to the supply element and the microchip being joined together;

while the seal is open transferring the substance from said substance source of the supply element to the supplier disposed in the microchip; and

moving the substance from the supplier disposed in the microchip to the microfluid structure by applying a potential to the microchip.

58. (previously presented) The combination of claim 56 wherein said seal of substance supplier of the supply element comprises a chemically resistant substance.

59 (previously presented) The combination of claim 56 wherein said seal of said supplier of the supply element comprises a wax.

60. (previously presented) The combination of claim 56 wherein said supplier of the supply element comprises at least one end sealed by a membrane that is flush with a side surface of the supply element.

61. (previously presented) The combination of claim 60 wherein said membrane comprises a chemically resistant material.

62. (previously presented) The combination of claim 60 wherein said membrane comprises one of a metal or gas permeable polymer.